

The Honorable Anthony Principi

Anthony J. Principi is a Principal in The Principi Group, LLC providing consulting services and support to the U.S. Congress, defense communities and investors on military bases and federal facilities realignment and closure matters.

In 2005, Mr. Principi was appointed by President George W. Bush to chair the 2005 military Base Realignment and Closure Commission (BRAC). The Commission was responsible for recommending to the President and Congress the realignment and closure of military installations throughout the United States. The 2005 BRAC was the largest of all previous BRACs combined.

From 2006 to 2011, he was senior Vice President for Pfizer, Inc. where his primary focus centered on corporate strategy and federal government relations.

During his four-year tenure (2001-2005) as Secretary of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, he directed the federal government's second largest department, responsible for a nationwide system of health care services, benefits programs, and national cemeteries for America's 25-million living veterans and dependents.

Mr. Principi is a 1967 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, Md., and first saw active duty aboard the destroyer USS Joseph P. Kennedy. He later commanded a River Patrol Unit in Vietnam's Mekong Delta. During his service in Southeast Asia, Mr. Principi was awarded the Bronze Star with combat "V" for valor and several other military decorations for valor.

Upon returning from Vietnam, Mr. Principi earned his law degree from Seton Hall University in 1975 and was assigned to the Navy's Judge Advocate General Corps in San Diego, Calif. In 1980, he was transferred to Washington D.C. as a legislative counsel for the Department of the Navy.

From 1984 to 1988, he served as Republican chief counsel and staff director of the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, following three years as counsel to the chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee.

Mr. Principi served as Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs, VA's second-highest executive position, from March 17, 1989, to September 26, 1992, when he was named Acting Secretary of Veterans Affairs by President George H.W. Bush. He served in that position until January 1993. Following that appointment, he served as Republican chief counsel and staff director of the Senate Committee on Armed Services.

Prior to his nomination as Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Mr. Principi was senior vice president at Lockheed Martin IMS, and a partner in the San Diego law firm of Luce, Forward, Hamilton & Scripps.